

W5YI

America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable.

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Former Ham Operator Arrested in North Carolina Mountains

Steve Anderson, 55, of Somerset, Kentucky, who previously held the Extra Class AA8DP call sign, has been arrested in the mountains of south-western North Carolina. He eluded authorities for more than a year.

A tip received following a November 2nd television episode of "America's Most Wanted" and forwarded to federal officials led to his arrest. It was the second time that the show had featured Anderson, an alleged racist and anti-Semite accused of talking about killing federal law enforcement officials on the unlicensed radio station he operated from his home. Fox-TV first covered the case in April 2002.

Anderson is the former operator of the clandestine KSMR (Kentucky State Militia Radio) and a man on the FBI's most wanted list. He was arrested by officers of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation.

Anderson, a white supremacist, is accused of shooting an automatic weapon at an off-duty Bell County sheriff's deputy on October 14, 2001, who had pulled Anderson's truck over for driving his pickup erratically with no lights. The officer was unharmed although his cruiser was struck about 25 times.

Police said Anderson then drove his truck into the Eastern Kentucky mountains and abandoned his truck. A search of the vehicle turned up pipe bombs, and a search of his home found an arsenal of explosives, ammunition and guns.

He was indicted on federal weapons charges after his extradition back to Kentucky. Unregistered weapons found on his property and listed in the indictment included a machine gun, a sawed-off rifle, a semi-automatic assault rifle, a firearm with silencer, two bombs, six pipe bombs and 25 other "unspecified destructive devices."

The majority of militia members appear to be attracted to the movement because of gun control and right-to-bear-arms issues. The banning of semi-automatic assault-style weapons also angered many militia members.

Anderson is a former member of the Kentucky State Militia (KSM). He also had ties to the Christian Identity Movement, a white supremacist group.

He had attracted FCC attention two years ago when he operated an unlicensed HF station as part of the Kentucky State Militia ...a group of armed extremists who oppose the powers of the federal government. He supposedly was a Major in KSM's 6th Battalion.

In December 2000, the Federal Communications Commission cited two Amateur Radio operators for operating on high frequency spectrum that was not authorized by their ham radio licenses. Both were leaders in the Kentucky militia movement. Their radio activities had been under investigation since they were using ham and other frequencies for their tactical communications and broadcast needs.

KSM was headed up by "State Commanding

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Officer" Charlie Puckett (Nicholasville, Kentucky) who holds Amateur Radio station license KF4ZMG. Puckett had been censured by the FCC for operating on 80 meters (3.860 MHz), a frequency not authorized to Technician Class licensees. Puckett denied the violation, stating that the transmissions were under the "control" of Stephen Anderson (AA8DP) - who, as an Extra Class ham operator, is licensed for operation on that frequency.

Anderson was also warned by the FCC in December 2000 for his operations just below the 40-meter ham band on 6.890 MHz, a frequency not authorized to Amateur Radio at all.

Puckett denied monitoring reports that the KSM or its members were involved in the alleged transmissions, which reportedly jammed WWFV, a licensed commercial short-wave radio broadcaster operating out of Copperhill, Tennessee. WWFV transmits on several HF frequencies including 6.890 MHz during the evening.

On January 24, 2001, FCC enforcement agent, Riley Hollingsworth sent a letter to Anderson asking if he was in control when Puckett operated on 3.860 MHz.

Anderson responded by returning his Amateur Radio license to the FCC claiming that the agency "...is an agent of a foreign corporation" with no authority over his radio operation. He also stated that he does "...not reside in any territory or possession of the Federal Government of the United States of America..." and that he was "...not subject to any regulation by this fictitious entity."

On February 12, 2001, Hollingsworth obliged by canceling Anderson's AD8DP Extra Class license.

Anderson launched unlicensed KSMR (Kentucky State Militia Radio) on March 3, 2001 and broadcast nightly on 3260 kHz USB between 0300 and 0400 UTC. Puckett (who is still licensed as a Technician Class ham operator) said that "KSMR is not sponsored by the Kentucky State Militia, but by militia's, and patriots all across this country."

The live programs began with a song called "Take My Gun (From My Cold Dead Hands)" and militia announcements. And then proceeded into a commentary on Christianity, alleged U.S. government cover-ups, and justification for the existence of the patriot militia movement - which perceives itself to be defending the country against a corrupted and conspiratorial federal government.

Anderson announced during a broadcast on Friday, March 9, 2001, that he had received another letter from the FCC, presumably for his transmissions as KSMR. He said there is no point in citing him. "This is the Kentucky Militia station.... We don't want to hear from you [because] you don't have anything to say to us. You don't have any authority over us. We are asserting our First Amendment Rights here and are protecting them with the Second Amendment." The Second Amendment, of course, refers to the right to bear arms. Strong words indeed.

Anderson said that KSMR was operating at 800

watts and was in the process of adding a 3kW amplifier he called the "rock crusher." He also said that the station would soon operate full time on 3260, 6880, and 12181 kHz but that programming never materialized.

The FCC took KSM's defiance seriously and was planning to close the station, levy a minimum \$7,500 fine and seize the transmitting equipment.

Other state militias became interested in unlicensed broadcasting and Anderson was scheduled to teach a seminar on communications and antennas to members of other state militias who would be attending a 'major' multi-state patriot rally scheduled for April 2001 at Norm Creek, Kentucky.

KSM Commander Puckett became uneasy about a confrontation with the FCC and ordered Anderson's unlicensed HF anti-government white supremacist broadcasts to stop ...many of which threatened violence.

On April 9th, Puckett announced that it had dismissed Anderson from KSM because he refused to shut down his radio operation. What Anderson had done was shut down KSMR on March 20 ...returning to the pirate airwaves three days later as the United Patriot Radio supposedly representing militias all across this country. Anderson also had joined a new group called the Kentucky Rifleman Militia.

Law-enforcement officials and groups such as the Anti-Defamation League had been watching Anderson for some time. He allegedly used his pirate radio station to make threats against government agents; used his farm in Pulaski County for Ku Klux Klan rallies; and, according to neighbors, fired guns on his property daily.

If convicted, Anderson faces a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

AMATEUR RADIO STATION CALL SIGNS

...sequentially issued as of the first of January 1, 2003:

District	Extra	Advanced	Tech./General	Novice
0	AB0XG	KI0SL	→	KC0OSG
1	AB1BT	KE1ME	→	KB1JFA
2	AB2QD	KG2RR	→	KC2KQN
3	AB3AF	KF3EE	→	KB3IWX
4	AG4WZ	KV4GS	→	KG4WPG
5	AD5MY	KM5XU	→	KD5UQZ
6	AE6KA	KR6FE	→	KG6OJT
7	AC7WX	KK7XO	→	KD7TTD
8	AB8QE	KI8KD	→	KC8VLH
9	AB9GU	KG9QU	→	KC9CYA
Hawaii	→	AH6RQ	NH7PP	WH6DGT
Alaska	→	AL7RS	KL1KN	WL7CVR
Virgin Isl.	→	KP2CS	NP2MJ	WP2AIP
Puerto Rico	→	KP3BN	WP3VR	WP4NOZ

[Source: FCC Amateur Service Database, Washington, DC]

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CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Matsushita Electric, Tokyo parent of Panasonic, is introducing an electronic home information network they call "Living Environment Services."

They foresee all major appliances including digital TVs, refrigerators and washing machines being connected to the Internet ...each with its own unique IP address.

Health Networks will remotely manage a person's well-being using electronic health monitors and other devices. Electronic Networks will enable such services as the distribution of cooking recipes and remote monitoring of the contents of a refrigerator. Peace-of-Mind Networks will monitor homes while their occupants are away or keep an eye on elderly people living alone. And Environmental Networks will support energy management and conservation.

Web-connected toilet. Matsushita recently demonstrated a "Toilet Home Health Center" that analyzes your health status based on weight, body fat, blood pressure, heart beat and other personal characteristics. The seat is fitted with various electrodes, sensors and a LCD display. The information is saved in your medical records on your home server, or instantly sent to your doctor by an Internet-capable cellular phone built into the smart toilet.

Other products on display at Tokyo's Panasonic Concept Center include a Robotic Vacuum Cleaner that has a sensor and a camera inside so that it can be controlled remotely, even by using the screen of a mobile phone.

Forget what you need from the grocery store? A camera installed inside the Internet Refrigerator transmits pictures of what's inside, so that it too can be checked by a mobile phone.

They also have a new high-tech bed type shower in which you lay down and multi-directional mists do all the washing for you.

A closet outfitted with the Clothing Server helps you decide what outfit to wear. Enter the day's temperature and weather, and whether you want casual or formal clothes, into a keyboard attached to the closet's door and the robotic clothing server finds the best wardrobe for you.

Matsushita's bathroom mirror has sensors that take infrared pictures of one's hair and skin, and the mirror then makes treatment recommendations. The "mirror" records the diagnosis in its data banks and dispenses mineral waters in varying degrees of acidity to best suit one's needs.

Another new product is the Tele-HomeCare System, which allows patients to receive medical check-ups at home. The system, has a videophone component for patient-physician consultations enabling patients to send general health data, such as vital signs, to their doctor's terminal.

Scientific American (magazine) recently ran a story that suggests robots might be controlled by the human mind. "People with nerve or limb injuries may one day be able to command wheelchairs, prosthetics and even paralyzed arms and legs by 'thinking them through' or imagining the motions with the aid of wireless communications between implants in the brain and the limb." Research involving monkeys has been successful in translating the electrical activity of brain neurons into commands able to control mechanical devices.

EMERGING COMMUNICATIONS

Television set makers and U.S. cable operators agree on "plug-and-play" technology ...clearing a major hurdle in the transition to digital television. The deal reached December 19th means that by 2004, consumers will be able to buy cable-ready digital TV sets that could deliver high definition (HDTV) programming without a separate set-top box.

The agreement is expected to ultimately spark demand for high-definition television (HDTV) sets. It could, however, cause a slowdown in the sales of HDTV currently in the marketplace as consumers with cable service wait for the next generation of digital TV sets.

The issue of "plug-and-play" cable-ready functionality is considered the last major hurdle in the U.S. digital TV transition, and an important consideration for nearly 70 million households that depend on a cable network operator for their TV services.

Existing high-definition TV sets already in the marketplace and in consumer's homes would be able to hook into

cable systems using separate set-top boxes.

The proposed regulations also would allow consumers to make at least one copy of most digital programs. The agreement, however, was drafted without input from three important groups: Hollywood movie studios, direct-broadcast-satellite TV providers and consumer groups.

The terms of the agreement are embodied in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreed to by 14 consumer electronics companies, representing the majority of HDTV sales in the United States, and seven major cable operators, representing more than 75 percent of all cable subscribers.

Negotiations were conducted directly among company representatives in conjunction with their respective trade associations, the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) and the National Cable & Telecommunications Association (NCTA). The key elements of the agreement must still be implemented by the Federal Communications Commission.

FCC Chairman Michael Powell issued a statement praising the agreement, saying "'plug-and-play' will be good for the future of these industries, good for the digital transition and, most importantly, good for consumers." He said the agency will act quickly on the industry requests after a brief comment period.

DirectTV, the direct broadcast satellite (DBS) satellite service, is pulling the plug on its high speed (broadband) Internet service. It will move its 160,000 "DirecTV DSL" customers to alternative service providers. About 200 of DirecTV Broadband's 400 employees are being laid off. More at: <www.directvdsf.com>.

Wi-Fi from a stratospheric "hot-spot." Wireless Internet developer Sanswire is seeking to introduce an airship-based wireless Internet service throughout the United States by 2005 at a targeted consumer subscription price of \$29 a month.

A series of unmanned high altitude airship platforms called "Stratellites" will allow Sanswire to provide high-speed wireless Internet access to the entire continental United States and parts of Canada and Mexico. Each will cover about 300,000 square miles.

Powered by a series of solar powered electric motors, each "Stratellite" will be over two hundred feet in diameter and

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have a payload capacity of 2 tons. The platforms are being made by Canada's 21st Century Airships.

"Stratellites" will fly 13 miles up in the stratosphere -- not out in space as satellites do. Satellite-based Internet services provide high-speed downloads, but offer limited two-way capability because of the long distance delay from Earth to satellite and back.

Companies are already developing Wi-Fi systems that will operate over tens of miles and Sanswire's system will deliver Wi-Fi (802.11 protocol) connections to consumers. See: <www.sanswire.net>.

The high powered broadcast transmitter and huge tower may become a thing of the past. The FCC is looking in to allowing a digital-TV station to replace their main transmitter with several low-power transmitters ...all operating on the same channel throughout their market area. The aim is to reduce interference in congested areas where there are channel conflicts. We understand that a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is in the works. Most large broadcast organizations ...including the National Association of Broadcasters, are in favor.

The U.S. Department of Defense is saying that wireless Internet access could interfere with military radar and is seeking new limits on wireless technology such as Wi-Fi.

The technical restrictions that military officials are seeking could, according to industry executives, threaten expansion of wireless technology used to connect to the Internet.

The debate, which involves low-power radio transmissions that the Defense Department says may jam as many as 10 types of radar systems in use by the U.S. military, presents a predicament for the Bush administration.

The FCC said there have been no reports of civilian wireless Internet use interfering with military radar. Members of industry believe that military uses can co-exist with the millions of smart wireless Internet devices that can sense nearby use of military radar.

The Pentagon argues that these techniques are unproven and low-power transmissions could interfere with various types of military radar systems such as those used for tracking storms, monitoring aircraft or guiding missiles and other weapons.

The military wants federal regulators to delay consideration of opening additional radio frequencies in the 5-Gigahertz band. An estimated 16 million Wi-Fi-enabled computers and other devices are already in use in this country and overseas.

Microsoft and Intel were among the companies that have met last week with the Defense Department to try and iron out any differences.

Intel plans to put currently existing Wi-Fi technology on all of the microprocessor chips it ships for tens of millions of desktop, laptop and hand-held computing devices. *[Reported by the New York Times]*

Mobile phone use is exploding in China. According to official figures released by The Ministry of Information Industries, the number of mobile phone subscribers reached 200.3 million at the end of November 2002 ...representing a 20 percent gain in the last six months. There are now almost as many wireless as wireline phones in China. The Ministry also announced that the number of Internet users in the country rose by 2.4 million in November to nearly 48.3 million.

In a Dec. 17th news release, the FCC, said cable operators control 57 percent of the broadband market as of June 30, 2002.

High-speed lines connecting homes and businesses to the Internet increased by 27% during the first half of 2002, from 12.8 million to 16.2 million lines, compared to a 33% increase (from 9.6 million) during the second half of 2001.

A large majority, 86.4 percent, of the high-speed Internet services serve residential homes and small businesses

Cable operators control 9.2 million broadband lines and phone companies control 5.1 million. At the end of 2001, cable had 7.1 million high-speed lines, or 55 percent market share.

California, the most populous state, leads in high-speed lines, with 2.6 million subscribers. Next is New York with 1.5 million customers, Florida with 1.1 million, and Texas with 1 million.

According to researcher, In-Stat AMDR, less than one-third of U.S. households will subscribe to a broadband service by 2006. They say 42 percent of dial-up subscribers claim they have no need for high speed Internet

service, while 32 percent believe that the technology is too expensive. In contrast, only eight percent reported that broadband wasn't available in their area.

Home networking is quickly becoming a key broadband application. Currently a broadband household is three times as likely to have a home network as a dial-up household. <<http://www.instat.com>>.

COMPUTERS & SOFTWARE

According to The NPD Group, total U.S. retail sales of video game hardware, software, and accessories exceeded \$6 billion through the first ten months of 2002, representing a 25 percent increase over 2001.

Given that approximately 50% of annual sales historically take place in the fourth quarter, the industry is likely to ring up \$10 billion in total sales this year, exceeding last year's \$9.4 billion which was also a record-setting year.

For the past year, both Microsoft's Xbox and Nintendo's GameCube have been slugging it out against the front-running Sony PlayStation-2, which had an eighteen-month head start and now commands an overwhelming market share.

On average for every PlayStation-2 sold, 7.9 games are expected to be purchased. Xbox has a 5.7 to 1 game-to-console sales ratio, GameCube, a 5.5-to-1. The research company also says one-third of video game software purchases were for users over the age of 18.

America Online secured a patent on its instant messaging (IM) application software. The patent covers networks that allows multiple users to see when other users are present and then to communicate with them. This definition could cause a patent infringement problem for Microsoft and Yahoo since they have similar instant messaging services, each with millions of users.

E-mail "Spam" marketer CN Productions and its owner Jay Nelson has been ordered by a federal court in Virginia to pay America Online almost \$7 million for deluging its subscribers with nearly 1 billion junk e-mails ...many promoting porn sites. AOL said the firm accounted for 25 percent of all junk e-mail complaints about adult Web sites in a two-year period.

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GADGETS & GIZMOS

The Wristlinx Talkie, a 2003 Consumer Electronics Show "Wireless Innovations Award" winner, is a VOX (voice activated) 2-way radio watch from Xact Communication. Their Wristlinx X2X supports both FRS (Family Radio Service Channel 1-14) and GMRS (Channels 15-22) with 300 mW of power.

It's back-lit screen shows the time, channel, battery life and volume. 1.5 mile range. Below the display is the microphone and speaker. An electronic "up" button increases volume. The X2X comes with a replaceable lithium ion battery and an AC charger. \$49.99 (although being sold on the Net at \$39.99.)

Photo and more info at: <www.xactcommunication.com>. The 2003 International CES is being held in Las Vegas Hilton, January 9-12, 2003.

Creative Lab's new 6mm thick CardCam has been certified by the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's thinnest digital camera. No LCD screen, but the CardCam does have a resolution of 1.3-megapixels and 8MB of internal storage. Weighs just 1.3 ounces and the size of a credit card.

Can store 26 photos at 1280 x 960 resolution or 101 photos at 640 x 480 resolution. Connects to the PC via the USB port, and includes viewing/editing software. The built-in lithium-ion battery is automatically charged through the USB port. There are no batteries to buy or lose. List: \$99.9, less if you search the Web. <www.americas.creative.com>

Metaresearch (Forest Grove, OR) has an interesting radio-controlled miniature wireless "SuperCam" video camera which comes with a separate 4-inch LCD receiver/monitor. It operates over the 2.4 GHz ISM band (also the 13-cm ham band).

You can install the battery-operated 2-ounce camera in anything (even in a model plane) and watch what it sees on the monitor. Can also be used to eavesdrop on any wireless 2.4 GHz camera within 300-feet. Camera is only 3.5" x 0.75" x 0.75". TV output can be video-taped on your camcorder. Cost: \$299. See it online at: <e-metaresearch.com>.

Sony says it will soon deliver a child robot. It already makes Aibo, an artificial intelligence robotic dog. (\$1,299.) The SDR4X humanoid will interact with its 'care givers', expressing emotions through a combination of words, songs and body language. It can recognize up to 10 human faces and voices and adapt its behavior according to the way it is treated. The Sony Dream Robot will cost about \$80,000.

INTERNET & WORLD WIDE WEB

Froogle (a play on the word "frugal") is a new service from Google that makes it easy to locate products for sale online. Google, the innovative online search company, has quietly launched an online shopping price comparison service which also provides a new outlet for its unobtrusive text-based advertisements. You can even search by price and price range.

"Froogle.Google.com" searches the web and provides the most relevant links to the product. There is no longer any need to browse the web when you are looking for a specific item to purchase. Just go to Froogle, and you'll quickly find nearly every item for sale on the web. Google doesn't not accept payment for including products in its search results.

Two other new services being tested are Google Webquotes and Google Viewer. You can get to them by going to <labs.google.com>, Google's technology playground.

In addition to the usual results of a search, Google Webquotes returns, for each site found, comments about that site from a number of other sites. Google says this service allows users to get a third-party opinion on sites they are searching for, giving more information about a site's credibility.

Google Viewer offers a slide show of search results. At the top of the browser window, a tool bar allows users to set the speed at which the slide show progresses, step forward and backward through the search results, or return to the beginning. You can also stop the slide show.

All three Google services (Froogle-Google, Google Webquotes and Google Viewer) were launched during mid-December. Another Google beta site,

<catalogs.google.com> has over 700 mail-order catalogues in its directory. (For example: The entire 444-page Radio Shack catalog is online!) Check them out.

More people are ordering their prescriptions over the Internet, but not from who you would guess.

Forrester Research says online consumers will represent \$6.7 billion in prescription drug sales in 2003 and this figure will double in 2004.

Traditional brick-and-mortar pharmacies (like Walgreen's, CVS or Rite-Aid whose customers primarily pick up their online-ordered prescriptions at local stores) have ceded much of the Internet drug market to so-called "pharmacy-benefit managers" ...the largest of which are owned by pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Prescription drug benefits are the fastest rising segment of health care expenditures in America. To better control these expenses, HMOs, which provide those benefits, are increasingly turning to PBMs ...large companies (like Medco Health Solutions, a unit of Merck) that run health care benefits programs for various insurers.

PBMs can generally save up to one-third on the cost of prescriptions due to ingredient, dispensing and processing cost savings.

Medco Health sold more than \$1 billion worth of drugs on its Web site this year. Some plans have agreed to work with Internet druggists, but the biggest ones have not.

Currently only one online-only drug retailer remains, <www.drugstore.com>. They lost \$14 million last year.

According to comScore Media Metrix, consumers set new Internet spending record for the week ending Dec. 13, 2002 when U.S. consumers spent \$2.2 billion online. Cumulative consumer online sales from Nov. 1 through the week ending Dec. 13 reached \$10.8 billion, up 32 percent over the same period last year.

Nielsen-Netratings stats were even better. They report a 44 percent increase in online shopping activity since the beginning of the holiday season.

On the other hand, the Reuters news service reported that traditional brick-and-mortar retailers are not doing so well. "Lackluster sales are driving them to discount everything in a last-ditch effort to meet holiday targets."

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The Christmas shopping season typically accounts for as much as 60% of annual retail sales, and the final shopping week can add up to more than a third of the season's sales, according to AMR Research. That's when retail sales at brick-and-mortar outlets are expected to boom.

According to Census Bureau estimates, online purchases in the United States totaled more than \$11 billion in the third quarter this year, up 34 percent over the period in 2001. Despite this impressive growth, online sales are still tiny compared with total retail sales, which were \$827 billion in the third quarter.

[Reported by the New York Times]

EarthLink is now offering a low cost (\$9.95 monthly) unlimited dial up account for customers where price is the only consideration. You have to ask for it at: 1-800-890-6356. It is not yet mentioned on the <www.earthlink.net/home/dial> sales promotion page. It offers one e-mail account and customer support is e-mail only. Subscribers will also not get EarthLink's new Spam-filtering software planned for January. Regular cost of Earthlink's dial-up service is \$21.95.

Earthlink has been ranked highest in overall customer satisfaction among U.S. dial-up Internet service providers (ISPs) by J.D. Power and Associates. They have 4.9 million subscribers.

Technology research company Gartner Inc. predicts the number of wireless hot spots will grow by some 600 percent in North America between 2003-2005. The number of mobile computer users who regularly access the Internet at the sites is expected to grow from virtually none a year or so ago to 4.5 million by 2005, Gartner forecasts.

WASHINGTON WHISPERS

Cellphone fees to rise to aid the poor. The FCC on December 13th amended the method by which telephone carriers must pay their universal service fund (USF) contributions.

The universal service fund subsidizes (provides telecommunications discounts) for consumers who live in high-cost and rural areas; for low-income consumers; for

rural health care providers and for Internet access and connections for schools and libraries. The FCC's inspector general reports that widespread allegations of fraud and corruption continue to plague the USF system that gives Internet-access discounts to schools and libraries.

Under the current universal service rules, carriers' contributions are assessed as a percentage of their interstate and international end-user telecommunications revenues. Currently, wireline long distance companies contribute 63% of the universal service fund, with the remainder coming from local exchange companies and wireless companies.

Most carriers recover these costs by billing customers a percentage of total long-distance charges and some make a profit on their USF contribution. The new rules prohibit carriers from including a mark-up above their USF contribution if they choose to recover their contributions costs through a phone bill line item. Some \$5.5 billion is collected annually from the nation's telephone users.

You can also expect that your wireless (cell phone) bill will go up next April. The FCC said wireless companies must pay more because of the increasing number of people switching to cell phones for long-distance calls. Theoretically, people who use a traditional long-distance wireline carrier could see their bill go down a bit, but few think that will happen.

The FCC almost doubled the amount wireless carriers contribute to the USF system to reflect changes in the long-distance market. Wireless carriers are now required to make a USF contribution based on 28.5 percent of their assumed long distance revenues, compared with a previous cap of 15 percent.

A cellphone user paying a \$50 bill each month now pays a universal service fee of about 50 cents. That will increase to about a dollar.

An alliance of government agencies, corporations, and non-overnment organizations have joined to form the "National Cyber Security Alliance" to help home users, parents, and small businesses. Check out their helpful suggestions at: <www.StaySafeOnLine.info>.

President Bush has signed the Electronic Government Act of 2002 into law. The act, sponsored by Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.) In May 2001 is intended to push federal agencies to make

wider use of the Internet to provide information and services to citizens.

The law creates a new Office of E-government. It also calls for building a federal Internet portal as a single point from which citizens can access all government information and services. <www.FirstGov.gov> serves that purpose now but is not as comprehensive or user-friendly as the portal envisioned for the future.

The measure also requires regulatory agencies to conduct administrative rule-makings on the Internet. Agencies also would be required to post on their Web sites all of the information they now are required to publish in the Federal Register.

Radio personalities across the country hyped "Body Solutions" using questionable personal endorsements. The Federal Trade Commission has filed suit against the marketers of Body Solutions, a widely advertised weight loss product that was peddled using deceptive radio advertisements on more than 650 radio stations in 110 cities nationwide. The product also was sold in Wal-Mart, Eckerd, Kmart and Walgreens.

The FTC's lawsuit came after a 12-state investigation of San Antonio-based Mark Nutritionals Inc., which makes and markets Body Solutions. The FTC charged the firm with making false and unsubstantiated claims. The suit was filed in the U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division, on Dec. 5, 2002.

The defendants claimed that Body Solutions would assist consumers to lose substantial and permanent weight while you sleep without diet or exercise and that users could consume substantial amounts of high calorie foods and still lose weight.

The FTC said the defendants had raked in more than \$190 million in Body Solutions sales since 1999. Mark Nutritionals recently filed for bankruptcy but continues to operate under Chapter 11. The FTC said there are no miracle weight-loss products.

Securing cyber-space could turn into massive government eavesdropping project. The White House is thinking about building a central observation system that could monitor everything people do on the Internet.

It has the potential to quickly track Web sites visited, e-mails sent and received, chat room activity and online purchases made while they are happening.

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Critics fear that the plan will give the government the potential for real-time monitoring of individuals.

The stated objective is to detect and defend against terrorists who are attacking the Internet itself. Such a proposal would require congressional and regulatory approval.

The government says a large-scale operations center is needed because Internet service providers only have a view of the part of the Internet that is under their control. There are thousands of ISPs ...varying in size from small garage operations serving only a hand full of subscribers to AOL which has nearly 40 million customers.

The proposal, part of the administration's draft report, "The National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace," involves collecting and monitoring Internet usage and traffic statistics in a national control center fed by individual ISPs.

Linking all ISPs to a centralized "Cyberspace Network Operations Center" would enable data sharing and total real-time surveillance of the Internet ...a system security experts say could be interpreted as a national wiretap.

They compare it to the FBI's much publicized "Carnivore" Internet spying system ...only far much more effective since it looks at the entire Internet, not just data going through one ISP.

The proposal is labeled in the report as an "early-warning center" that offers early detection of Internet-based attacks as well as defense against viruses and worms. The center, which could be run either by the government or the private sector, would "...analyze and exchange data about attacks that could prevent exploits from escalating and causing damage or disruption of vital systems."

The final report is supposed to be released early next year. It is intended to provide an Internet strategy for the new Department of Homeland Security.

FCC Inquiry on wireless telecommunications released Dec. 20.

Approximately 80 percent of the U.S. population lives in metropolitan areas. The FCC seeks information on how to better serve the remaining 20 percent living in underserved rural areas.

Especially solicited are comments about geographic areas that lack adequate wireless telephone coverage, has inadequate quality of service, or inequitable

pricing. "In what ways, if any, can the Commission modify its rules to promote build-out to rural regions?" Comments on WT Docket No. 02-381 close on February 3, 2003.

AMATEUR RADIO

Steve Melachrinis W3HF, Collegeville, PA, has a vast collection of old amateur radio books ...some of which go back to 1909. He says he will help anyone research the former holder of a callsign, locate the callsign of a friend or relative, or document the callsign and/or license status of someone in the past. His e-mail address is: <W3HF@arrl.net>

FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement

Kornwell H. Chan, W3CI (Dresher, PA) submitted his license to the FCC on September 1, 1999 and agreed not to operate for four years. Monitoring information indicates that Chan operated on 147.195 MHz on November 6, 2002. Further transmissions before September 1, 2003, will result in enforcement action, including license revocation and re-instatement of the fine that was previously imposed. The FCC also said it will not be shortening Chan's 4 year license suspension as requested.

The American Electric Power Company (Columbus, OH) has been advised that it may be causing harmful interference to several Amateur Radio operators in Ohio, Indiana and Oklahoma.

The FCC said power-line equipment is classified as an "incidental radiator" and must not cause interference to authorized radio stations. Section 15.5 requires RF devices causing such interference to cease operations and not resume until the condition has been corrected.

Several ham operators have attempted unsuccessfully to work through the power company's usual complaint resolution process. The FCC said it prefers that such problems be solved without FCC intervention, but will conduct its own investigation if necessary.

The power company was directed to advise the complainants of the steps being taken to correct the interference. The FCC is to be notified if the problem is not corrected within 60 days.

TECO Energy, Inc. (Tampa, FL) and Walton EMC (Monroe, GA) were sent similar letters for their apparent powerline interference to Edward Wilson, K4UCQ of Balm, Florida and Samuel T. Harrell, N4XP of Watkinsville, Georgia.

Wayne L. Curley, WA6NRB (Monterey, CA) has been warned by the FCC that his Los Angeles area repeater system has been used by an unlicensed person, Richard Burton, in communication with WB6SUS and other stations. Burton is a habitual offender who has served prison time on at least two occasions for Amateur Radio related incidents.

The FCC reminded Curley "The repeater licensee is responsible for all recurring violations and violations that are not inadvertent, just as a licensee is responsible for a base station HF station operation in the licensee's home. You must prevent recurring and deliberate violations on your repeater by locking rule violators out, using tones, warning users, limiting its operation, or taking whatever steps necessary commensurate with your responsibility as the licensee of the station. If you are unable to do so, then you must shut down your station."

"Control operators must ensure the immediate proper operation of a station. 'Automatic' control does not mean 'unattended' operation [which is] not authorized under the rules."

The FCC said enforcement action will be taken against repeater operators who are unable to prevent violations including "... removal of the privilege of automatic control, monetary forfeiture, operator license suspension or station license revocation."

Bruce Wachtell, K7IJ (Carson City, NV) was sent a similar letter concerning numerous repeater rule violations including: "Failure to identify by users, Transmitting audio recordings, Intentional interference and False identification by certain users, Lengthy carriers and key-ups, Signals with hums or distortions by users and Use of the repeater by unlicensed operators."

"If you are unwilling or unable to prevent violations on your K7IJ repeater, then your operator and station license will be subject to enforcement action by the Commission."

Daniel Granda, KA6VHC (Whittier, CA) continues to cause deliberate

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interference to other repeaters. The FCC previously said his "16 year old coordination document was insufficient to establish coordination" and that he must correct the interference being caused to the KD6ZLZ and WA6NJJ repeaters operating on 223.82 and 223.84 MHz.

"It is important that you understand that even if you were properly coordinated 16 years ago, coordination is not a lifetime grant. It is not a frequency allocation. It is not a de facto assignment of exclusive rights to a channel. Furthermore, current coordination is required in order for your station not to bear the primary responsibility of resolving interference to coordinated repeaters. Historical coordination is irrelevant."

"You will shortly receive a notice from the FCC District Director for your region removing your authority to operate the KA6VHC repeater under automatic control. Upon receipt of that letter, a control operator must be present at all times at the control point of the KA6VHC repeater."

Granda was directed to respond to the interference and language violations within 20 days. In addition, Granda must provide a detailed plan to prevent interference to repeaters KD6ZLZ and WA6NJJ within 60 days. Failure to prevent interference will lead to enforcement action which could include a fine up to \$10,000 and license revocation.

Furthermore, Granda's license expires November 9, 2003 and "... will not be renewed until this matter is resolved."

Carl F. Sain, KA6BPA (Agoura Hills, CA) has at least 10 club call signs, nine of which were granted on the same day. Sain was directed to provide the FCC with justification for these club call signs within 30 days including meeting and membership information on call signs used by clubs. "You may request cancellation of any unneeded or inactive club call signs." The FCC said it would cancel any club call signs that are not satisfactorily justified.

Timothy L. Wilcox KF6FM (River-side, CA) was sent a similar letter for 10 club call signs granted to him the same day in the name of the Southwest Remote Radio Club.

Texas Southmost Amateur Radio Club (San Benito, TX) requested that the FCC "...issue a Cease and

Desist Order to Thomas A. Tanner, (K5DG, LaFeria, TX) directing him to stop unauthorized operation of the club repeater, remove his personal equipment from club property and discontinue unauthorized use of club equipment." The FCC declined to take action saying this "... is a civil dispute most appropriate for your local court."

William K. Ferguson, W9UNH (Hahira, GA), Alice Childs, AF4HB and Walter J. Childs KQ4SF (both of Pelham, GA) are being investigated by the FCC concerning their activities as volunteer examiners at an ARRL-VC test session held June 10, 2000 in Pelham, GA.

At issue is the test results of **Arthur Lee Clark, formerly KG4IJV of Oxford, GA**. Clark took the Technician Element 2 exam seven times during 1999 and 2000, failing each time ...and scoring an average of 33 percent correct on these examinations.

On June 10, 2000, however, Clark scored 100 percent on the Element 2 examination and 97 percent on the Element 3 (General Class) exam and was licensed as KG4IJV. The FCC recalled Clark for testing on April 4, 2002, but he failed to appear and his license was canceled on April 18, 2002.

The FCC now is auditing the exam session to determine how Clark could have passed with such high scores after such a dismal test record. They are looking into possible assistance by the VEs, the administration of the tests and any testing material that Clark may have had before, during and after the test session. The VE team has 30 days to respond.

The Northville Amateur Radio Association, James P. Delancey, Jr., NA1RA trustee (New Milford, CT) has complained to the FCC about interference from W2KGY, a coordinated repeater operated by the West Point Military Academy at West Point, NY. The FCC contacted the coordinator, the Upper New York Repeater Council, which responded.

The FCC now wants Delancy's response to the coordinator's letter before proceeding further. The NA1RA repeater was coordinated by a different organization, the Connecticut Spectrum Management Association, Inc.

Thomas Brothers, KI8BE (Berkley, MI) has submitted his amateur license to the FCC for cancellation after direction finding and an inspection found him operating an unlicensed transmitter at 88.3 MHz in the FM band. He may not re-apply to become a radioamateur for 5 years. Brothers was also fined \$10,000.

Alexander Sandbrand, N2NNU (Yonkers, NY) is in the process of having his Amateur Radio license revoked for operating outside of his Technician Class privileges after being warned by the FCC. He has been found nine times operating on the 10, 15 and 20 meter ham bands in 2001 and 2002.

Mark T. Sprague, KF6WAF (Antioch, CA) has been formally warned by the FCC that direction finding information indicates that he transmitted music on 146.415 MHz from his residence on numerous occasions in October and November, 2002 and failed to identify his station.

Michael E. Guernsey, Sr., ND8V (Parchment, MI) has been issued a final warning by the FCC which continues to receive complaints about his appropriation of certain 20-meter frequencies, and interference to certain operators who attempt to use them. The frequencies in question include 14.262 and 14.275. The FCC asked Guernsey to "... refrain from operation on the 20 Meter Amateur Band until these matters are resolved." He had previously been denied use of HF frequencies by the FCC for nine months and issued a Warning Notice concerning the same issue on May 20, 2002.

In related news, **Glenn A. Baxter, K1MAN, (Belgrade Lakes, ME)** said in a December 19th press release that he has filed legal action with the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington D.C. against Michael E. Guernsey, Sr., ND8V and FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, for alleged criminal violations of Sections 333 and 501 of the 1934 Communications Act. These sections prohibit "willful or malicious interfere interference to authorized radiocommunications."

Baxter alleges that Guernsey has intentionally interfered with his amateur radio transmissions from K1MAN and that Hollingsworth encouraged him as well as other Radio Amateurs to do the same thing.

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FTC ANNOUNCES NEW TELEMARKETING SALES RULES Including National "Do Not Call" Registry

On Dec. 18th, the Federal Trade Commission announced several changes to their telemarketing rules including the development of a national "do not call" registry that enables consumers to stop most unwanted telemarketing calls. New restrictions are also being imposed on automatic-dialing equipment that hang up on consumers or place them on hold when they answer the phone.

The Direct Marketing Association vigorously opposes to the new regulations which they say could have dire consequences for the \$278 billion telemarketing industry. They say the FTC has no jurisdiction in the matter and argues that the law restricts the companies' First Amendment rights. It plans to challenge the new rules in court.

They further believe an FTC-mandated "do-not-call" list is unnecessary because the industry has developed its own list of 7.5 million people whose phone numbers are off-limits. But their lists appear widely ignored and there is no penalty if a person on the list is called.

The current federal regulations, which have been in effect for ten years, require telemarketers to limit their calls to between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. and honor consumer requests not to be called back. But thanks to plunging long distance rates and automated dialers, sales representatives are able to reach far more customers and they have become a burden on the public. Some 500 million calls are now placed daily by telemarketers.

The majority of the FTC changes will become effective immediately. Creation of the "do not call" registry, however, requires additional time. It is planned that the system will be ready to begin accepting consumer registrations about four months after funding approval by Congress. Registration via the Internet will be available nationwide at that time, but registration via toll-free number will be phased in by region.

Approximately two months after the completion of the phased-in registration, telemarketers will be able to access the registry to "clean" their call lists to avoid calling consumers on the registry. A month after that, the Commission will begin enforcing the "do not call" registry provisions. Registration will be for five years. Telemarketers who ignore the list face \$11,000 fines per violation.

The National "Do Not Call" Registry

The FTC's decision to develop such a registry comes after nearly a year of analysis, in which more than 60,000 public comments were received. The overwhelming majority supported a national "do not call" list. There will be no charge to consumers to list their phone number with the FTC's national "do not call" registry.

The anticipated \$16 million cost will be funded by fees imposed on telemarketers. But the FTC will first have to obtain authority to impose the fees from Congress. The FTC has not yet determined how much it will charge to access the list but earlier said it would be less than \$3,000 per year. Telemarketers calling lists must be

updated every three months to remove any consumers' telephone numbers that are included in the new registry.

The list will not stop all sales calls into the home. Non-profit and political organizations may ignore the "do-not-call" list, but must honor requests not to be called back. The rules also permits telemarketers to call consumers with whom they have an "established business relationship" which is defined as consumers who have purchased, leased, or rented goods or services from the company within the prior 18 months, or if the consumer has submitted an application or made an inquiry to the company within the last three months.

Even if there is an "established business relationship," consumers can still make a specific request to the company not to call. Telemarketers calling to solicit charitable contributions are exempted from compliance with the provisions of the national registry, but also must accept specific "do not call" requests.

The new rules would not change the telemarketing practices of insurance companies and telecommunications firms, which are not regulated by the FTC. And because the FTC doesn't regulate intrastate calls, the rules would not cover telemarketing calls to consumers in a state that originate from that same state. Twenty-seven states, however, have their own "do-not-call" rules.

The new FTC Rules also bans unauthorized billing and prohibits telemarketers from processing any billing information for payment without the express informed consent of the customer.

Limited Call Abandonment

Many consumers expressed concern about the number of "dead-air" calls that they were receiving at home. Such calls typically occur when telemarketers use "predictive dialers" or other automatic dialing software to call many consumers at once. The software that drives the system predicts when a sales representative will end a sales pitch and has a new call ready. Predictive dialing reportedly increases productivity immensely, adding 15 minutes of productive talk time per hour of work.

While the automatic equipment is very efficient for telemarketers, it inevitably makes more calls that connect to consumers than there are available sales representatives to handle the calls. The "dead air" actually results from calls that are abandoned because there are not enough sales representatives available to talk to every consumer who answers the phone. Excessive call abandonment will no longer be tolerated and no more than 3 percent of calls answered by a person may be vacated.

Regarding the use of Caller-ID devices

The new rules requires telemarketers to transmit their telephone number and – if possible, the calling company's name – to a consumer's Caller-ID service.

Information about the new telemarketing rules and the National "Do Not Call" Registry is available online at <www.ftc.gov/donotcall>.

PROTECTING CYBERSPACE IS EVERYONE'S JOB

A Congressionally-appointed panel of experts called the Bush administration's draft National Strategy to Protect Cyberspace "...a step in the right direction, but a small step indeed." The strategy calls for voluntary participation and compliance by companies and individuals of all kinds.

The document says the nation's economy is increasingly dependent on cyberspace and that "cyber incidents" are increasing in number, sophistication, severity, and cost. "It is a mistake to think that past levels of cyber damage are accurate indicators of the future. Much worse can happen. The common defense of cyberspace depends on a public-private partnership. Everyone must act to secure their parts of cyberspace."

The strategy is basically a set of suggestions ...a collection of "best practices" that home users, small and large businesses, higher education, the Federal Government, and the national and global information infrastructure are urged – but not required – to follow in their security plans.

People are being told that they have a responsibility for information security as part of the national homeland defense. It is the hopes of the government that this voluntary participation will spread and everyone will assume information security responsibility for their own little area of cyberspace that they work and play in. It concludes that the "...government alone cannot secure cyberspace."

The government's strategy and suggestions do not include new regulations or mandates that hardware and software service providers include security software ...such as firewalls and virus protection packages to their customers automatically. But there are strong suggestions to manufacturers and service providers that software needs to be tightened up and made more secure.

The independent advisory panel issued a report on December 16th that is sharply critical of the Bush administration's cyber-security policy, saying it is weak and relies too much on the cooperation of the private sector. "The government ... has failed to exercise any of its powers other than persuasion," the report said.

The commission also said the "...federal government does not hold its leaders and managers responsible for cybersecurity. There are essentially little or no consequences for federal government agencies or officials who do not take prudent steps to improve cybersecurity."

The public comment period on the National Strategy to Protect Cyberspace document has closed, and President Bush is expected to approve it.

In mid-November, Congress approved \$903 million in grants to federal agencies, industry, and universities for cyber-security research.

WHAT THE HOME USER CAN DO

1.) **Use a Tough Password:** Hackers use software that is commonly available on the Internet to guess pass-

words and gain access to personal accounts and computers. Strong passwords usually include:

- at least eight digits;
- a mix of upper and lower case letters;
- a random mix of letters and numbers (not just numbers at the end); and,
- keyboard symbols (#,\$,&, *).

Home users should change their password at least once every six months, perhaps when the clocks change to daylight saving time and back to Standard time.

2.) **Maintain an Updated Virus Protection Program:**

New viruses appear weekly and the new ones are the most frequent source of damage. The virus protection programs that come installed on the computer are quickly out of date, but they can be kept current by enrolling with the antivirus company for an update program. Many update programs now offer automatic notification of new data, so that the user does not need to remember to go to the anti-virus site every week.

3.) **Update Patches:** Many commonly used software programs (operating systems, web browsers, e-mail readers, and others) are regularly discovered to have security holes or flaws. The software companies issue the equivalent of "recall notices," but unlike a similar notice from a car company, it may not appear in the mail. Typically, a user has to go to the software company's web page to discover the problem and the solution. The solution is usually a small amount of additional software that can be downloaded over the Internet. These fixes, called "patches," are recommended for most home users and small businesses running uncomplicated systems.

4.) **Filtering:** Parents may want to consider managing their children's internet use with software that allows them access to age-appropriate sites and materials. Many ISPs offer such software or filters, or they can be obtained from private vendors. In addition to filtering inappropriate sites, a parent may wish to limit the people from whom their child can receive e-mail. Most ISPs allow users to filter by listing the addresses from which they are willing to receive e-mail on all e-mail accounts they maintain, or just on their children's.

5.) **Cable Modem, DSL, Satellite or Wireless Connection:**

A high-speed connection that is always connected to the Internet (or more often than with dial up modems) makes the home user or small business an attractive target for the "bots" that search the Internet automatically for insecure connections. Even with updated virus software and current patches, smart "bots" can find a way to get into a system without the user knowing it. To prevent such covert entries, those with broadband connections should have additional software, known as a "firewall." Firewalls can be easily configured to close the many doors to the Internet that all computers have, leaving open only the few that people typically use (e.g., for e-mail and web browsing).